Re-Settlement of War-Widows

1362. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by Government for the re-settlement of widows of Kargil war;

(b) how many widows have been benefited so far; and

(c) how Government ensures speedy availability of help to these widows?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) A comprehensive package has been worked out and implemented for the widows of the Kargil martyrs. This includes apart from liberalised family pension equal to reckonable last pay drawn by the soldier and death gratuity, exgratia of Rs. 10 lakhs and other benefits from the Central and State Governments, from National Defence Fund and Army Central Welfare Fund. The next of kin of all martyrs of Kargil conflict have been given the benefit of the package, as applicable, on completion of necessary formalities. A special scheme for allotment of 500 oil product agencies/distributorships of LPG has also been announced by Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas. Every effort is made for payment of admissible benefits at the earliest.